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The Examiner objected to claims 13-17 as being misnumbered. Claims 13-17 have been renumbered as claims 12-16. The dependencies of renumbered claims 13-17 have also been corrected. Claim 14 has been amended to recite "said first drive."

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foote (United States Patent No. 5,369,477). The Examiner states that Foote discloses the claimed invention, and therefore the claims are anticipated. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Foote does not disclose an endless member including a belt secured on an inner surface of the endless member and a seal located on an edge of the endless member that are separate components. Foote discloses a laser printer 1 including a belt 2 and a belt tracking device 100 located on the belt 2. The belt tracking device 100 does not include a belt and a seal that are separate components as claimed. Instead, all the features of the belt tracking device 100 are one component. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foote. With regards to claim 3, the Examiner states that it would be obvious to form the belt 2 of Foote of an iron and nickel alloy because it is within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Foote discloses that the belt 2 is a photoconductor that is employed in an electrophotographic device, such as a laser printer 1. The belt 2 is made of an organic photoconducting material impregnated or bonded to a plastic film substrate (column 1, lines 63 to 68). The purpose of the belt 2 is to operate as part of an electrophotographic device to transfer toner to print media. If the belt 2 of Foote was made of an iron and nickel alloy as claimed, the belt 2 could not function as a photoconductor of a laser printer. That is, the belt 2 of Foote must be made of a specific material to function as a photoconductor, and changing the material of the belt 2 would affect its function. Claim 3 is not obvious.

Claims 10-16 are also not obvious. The Examiner admits that Foote does not teach a second conveyor located next to the belt 2 and states it would be obvious to provide a second conveyor in addition to the belt 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed invention recites that the seals of a first endless member assembly and a second endless member contact at a sealing surface to contain an item. In Foote, colored developers 7, 8, 9 and 10 deposit toner on

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the belt 2 to form an image that is transferred to print media. There is no reason to employ two conveyor belts that contact at a sealing surface to contain an item in a laser printer 1 as claimed. The belt 2 transfers toner to print media to form images and does not contain an item. There is no reasons to contain anything between two belts 2 in a laser printer 1. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foote in view of Lewis (United States Patent No. 6,352,150). The Examiner states that Lewis teaches a non-stick coating, and it would be obvious to provide a non-stick coating on the belt 2 of Foote. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious. There is no reason to employ a non-stick coating on the belt 2 of the laser printer 1 of Foote. For Foote to operate, the toner needs to stick or adhere to the belt 2 to be later transferred to print media. A non-stick coating would affect the performance of the belt 2 of the laser printer 1 and the adherence of the toner to the belt 2. There is no reason or motivation to employ a non-stick coating on the belt 2 of Foote because of Lewis. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-12 and 14-19 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Amy Spaulding